Infectious Disease Epidemiology Report

Invasive Group B Streptococcal disease, 2011

Background

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program of Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention monitors the incidence of invasive Group B Streptococcal (GBS) disease through mandatory reporting by health care providers, clinical laboratories and other public health partners. This report summarizes surveillance data on cases of invasive GBS from 2011.

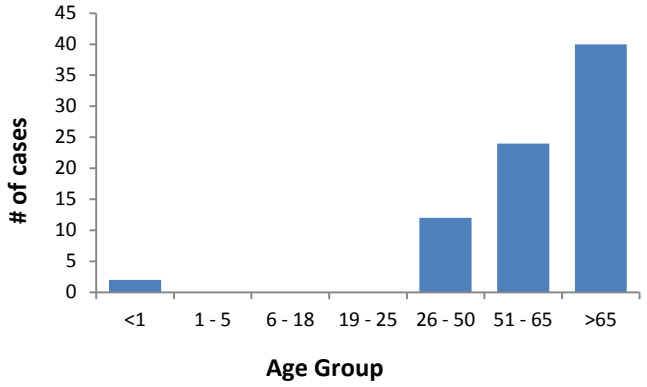
Methods

Invasive GBS is defined as isolation of Group B *Streptococcus (Streptococcus agalactiae)* from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid [CSF] or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid). Standardized case report forms were completed for each reported case in an infant (<3 months) in 2011. All other cases were entered in Maine CDC's surveillance system.

Results

A total of 78 cases of invasive GBS were reported in 2011. This is an increase from the 52 cases reported in 2010. The rate of GBS in Maine was 5.9 cases per 100,000 persons in 2011. Invasive GBS infections were found primarily among older adults with 82 percent of cases occurring in individuals over 50 years old (Figure 1).

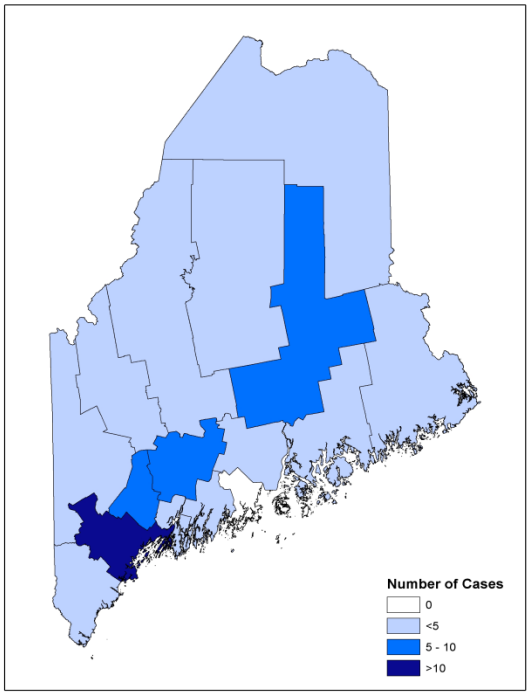
Figure 1: Invasive GBS by age – Maine, 2011



In 2011, one case of early onset (<7 days) and one case of late onset (≥7 days and < 3 months) GBS disease occurred in infants. No infants died of GBS in 2011.

Invasive GBS was identified among residents of fifteen Maine counties in 2011.

Invasive GBS cases by county - Maine, 2011



Discussion

Seventy-eight cases of invasive GBS were reported in Maine in 2011. The majority of cases occurred among older adults, though two cases of GBS infection occurred in infants. Although the overall number of cases of GBS increased in 2011, the number of cases in infants decreased from eight in 2010 to two in 2011.

Persons with chronic illnesses are most at risk of invasive GBS infection, although risk of infection is also high among children born to women with GBS colonization, prolonged rupture of membranes or preterm delivery.

Health care providers are encouraged to integrate GBS prevention into routine obstetric care, by promoting use of CDC guidelines for GBS prevention

Invasive GBS should be reported to Maine CDC by calling 1-800-821-5821 or faxing to 1-800-293-7534

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